

Message Text

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PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 SCCT-01 SY-05 SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1401

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 38

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

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FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

RTECOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 6727

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 31: OBJECTIONS TO SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN
AGREEMENT EMERGE; MILITARY LULL CONTINUES AS KIDNAPPINGS INCREASE

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1. SUMMARY: ARAFAT IN DIFFICULT POSITION AFTER SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN STATEMENT ATTACKING SINAI II; MAY VISIT CAIRO BEFORE DAMASCUS. ARAB LEAGUE SUPPORTS SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT. LEBANESE RIGHTISTS AND LEFTISTS STATE RESERVATIONS. REJECTIONISTS OPPOSE. NON-COMMITTED LEBANESE HAVE MIXED VIEWS. JUNBLATT ANNOUNCES NEW UNITED LEFTIST POLITICAL COUNCIL. ICRC ATTEMPT EVACUATE WOUNDED FROM TELL ZAATAR AGAIN FAILS. KIDNAPPINGS INCREASE IN WEST BEIRUT; MAY BE BEGINNING OF REPRISALS BY SHIITES DRIVEN OUT OF NABAA BY CHRISTIANS AND ARMENIANS. MILITARY ACTION EVERYWHERE LARGELY ARTILLERY FIRE, WITH FEW GROUND MOVEMENTS. NO SITREPS ON SUNDAYS HEREFTER. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST PROBLEM TO FOLLOW SIGNING OF PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN ACCORD IS CONTRADICTION POSITION OF PLO WITH REGARD TO JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN STATEMENT CONDEMNING SINAI II AGREEMENT. ARAFAT HAS TOLD EGYPTIANS HE WAS NOT AWARE OF CONTENTS OF STATEMENT AND THAT IT "DOES NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWPOINT OF FATAH, THE PLO OR THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE." SPECULATION IN BEIRUT THAT ARAFAT WILL NOW VISIT SADAT IN CAIRO BEFORE MEETING ASSAD IN DAMASCUS.

3. ARAB LEAGUE ROLE WITH REGARD TO SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT CLARIFIED BY DEPUTY SEC GEN KHOLI, WHO SAID IT CONFORMED TO VARIOUS ARAB LEAGUE RESOLUTIONS REGARDING LEBANON. ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT HAS NO PROVISIONS ON SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL, KHOLI EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT SYRIA WOULD DO SO, SINCE SYRIAN FOUNDER KHADDAM HAS PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN ARAB LEAGUE DELIBERATIONS. KHOLI SAID NEITHER SYRIA NOR ANY OTHER PARTY HAD RAISED QUESTION OF DEPLOYMENT OF ARAB LEAGUE TROOPS AT TELL ZAATAR IN CONTEXT OF SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN TALKS. KHOLI HOPES TO MEET PRESIDENT ASSAD SOON.

4. RESERVATIONS AND OBJECTIONS TO CEASEFIRE
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AGREEMENT BY VARIOUS PARTIES EMERGING MORE CLEARLY. ON RIGHT, FRANGIE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "THE LEBANESE FRONT NEITHER SUPPORTS NOR OPPOSES THE AGREEMENT, WHICH IS A SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AFFAIR." HE EXPRESSED "CERTAIN RESERVES" ON THIRD POINT OF AGREEMENT, WHICH CALLS FOR LEBANESE-LEBANESE DIALOG UNDER SARKIS. HE REPEATED POSITION THAT LEBANON IS NOT PARTY TO AGREEMENT, IS THEREFORE NOT BOUND BY IT,

AND THAT IT CONSTITUTES "SOME INTERFERENCE" IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS. PIERRE GEMAYEL SAYS AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS INTERIM MEASURE AND THAT IMPLEMENTATION IS WHAT MATTERS. HE RESTATED VIEW THAT BASIC PROBLEM IS NUMBER OF PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON, WHO HE CLAIMED NOW NUMBER 600,000. PERHAPS MOST OMINOUSLY AS FAR AS ATTITUDE OF "MODERATE" RIGHT IS CONCERNED, GEMAYEL SAID THAT CAIRO ACCORDS OF 1969 HAD BEEN IMPOSED ON LEBANON IN THE FIRST PLACE, BUT THAT LEBANON HAD ACCEPTED THEM AS LESSER EVIL, TO AVOID CIVIL WAR. NOW THAT CIVIL WAR HAS TAKEN PLACE ANYWAY, HE ARGUES, QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN STATUS MUST BE ADDRESSED FUNDAMENTALLY.

5. ON LEBANESE LEFT, JUNBLATT TOLD AL DEPUTY KHOLI JULY 30 THAT HE HAD SEVERAL RESERVATIONS ON ACCORD, NOTABLY THAT IT CONSTITUTED INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS (A CURIOUS COINCIDENCE OF ATTITUDE WITH CHAMOUN). HE SAID SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE PROVIDED FOR IN AGREEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL ARAB STATES THAT WANT TO PARTICIPATE. HE OBJECTED TO ABSENCE OF PROVISIONS ON SYRIAN MILITARY WITHDRAWALL. DEFINITIVE LEFTIST POSITION ON AGREEMENT WILL BE REVEALED IN COMMUNIQUE WITHIN TWO DAYS. LEFTIST PRESS NOTES WITH DISAPPROVAL VAGUENESS OF PROVISIONS ON PEACEKEEPING FORCE AND ABSENCE OF PROVISIONS ON SYRIAN MILITARY WITHDRAWAL.

6. PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS FLATLY OPPOSE AGREEMENT. "PALESTINIAN FORCES FRONT" SAID JULY 30 THAT AGREEMENT IS "ACQUITTAL FOR THE SYRIAN REGIME," AND AMOUNTS TO PALESTINIAN RECOGNITION OF SYRIAN MILITARY OCCUPATION OF LEBANON. PLO INTERNAL
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DIVISIONS ON AGREEMENT NOT CLEAR, BUT BEIRUT PRESS NOTES STATEMENT BY ABU IYAD TO KUWAITI PRESS THAT PALESTINIANS PREPARED ABIDE BY CAIRO ACCORDS BUT WILL NEVER ACCEPT REDISTRIBUTION OF PALESTINIANS TO OTHER ARAB STATES.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 6727

STUTTGART FOR ELG

7. NON-COMMITTED LEBANESE POLITICAL VOICES TAKE
DIFFERENTIATED ATTITUDES. RAYMOND EDDE AVOIDS
SAYING ANYTHING UNTIL KFOUR FRONT ATTITUDE IS CLEAR.
SAEB SALAM OBJECTS TO ABSENCE OF PROVISIONS ON SYRIAN
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WITHDRAWAL. HE CHARGES INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE
AFFAIRS AND SAYS THAT FEBRUARY CONSTITUTIONAL
DOCUMENT CANNOT BE IMPOSED ON LEBANON. HE OBJECTED
TO STATEMENT ATTACKING SINAI II AGREEMENT AS SERVING

NO USEFUL PURPOSE OTHER THAN TO EXACERBATE INTER-ARAB RELATIONS AND ALIENATE EGYPT. DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE ABU FADIL SAYS AGREEMENT "HAS CONSECRATED THE REALITY OF THE COHESION AND UNITY OF GOALS BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE." ISLAMIC COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHAFIC WAZZAN SAYS AGREEMENT IS SUITABLE BASIS FOR RETURN TO NORMALCY.

8. NEW LEBANESE LEFTIST UNITED FRONT UNDER LEADERSHIP OF JUNBLATT ANNOUNCED CONSTITUTION OF ITS POLITICAL COUNCIL LATE JULY 30 (SEPTTEL TO DEPT). GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN JULY 31.

9. ICRC ATTEMPT TO EVACUATE WOUNDED FROM TELL ZAATAR JULY 31 AGAIN DELAYED. GUARDIANS OF THE CEDAR AND MARONITE LEAGUE HAD GIVEN ASSURANCE, AND OPERATION JULY 31 HAD BEEN EXPECTED AS LATE AS EVENING OF JULY 30. CHAMOUN, ACCORDING TO RADIO AMCHITE AT 1100 LOCAL JULY 31, SAID HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND ICRC REASON FOR DELAY AND SAID THAT NATIONAL LIBERALS WILL CONTINUE TO ABIDE STRICTLY BY CEASEFIRE UNTIL REASON FOR DELAY MADE CLEAR.

10. AS MILITARY LULL GROWS LONGER, KIDNAPPINGS IN WEST BEIRUT INCREASE DRAMATICALLY. MORE THAN TWENTY PERSONS HAVE DISAPPEARED IN LAST TWO DAYS, INCLUDING DR. KHALIL SALIM, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FINANCE, KIDNAPPED IN HAMRA AREA JULY 30. KIDNAPPING OF SALIM, WHO WAS STILL ADMINISTERING GOL PAYROLLS ON BOTH SIDES OF LINE, DESCRIBED BY JUNBLATT AS "DIRECTED AGAINST EVERY ONE OF US." IN ADDITION TO CYCLICAL TENDENCY FOR KIDNAPPING TO INCREASE DURING PERIODS OF MILITARY LULL, SOME KIDNAPPINGS MAY BE REPRISALS FOR CHRISTIAN AND ARMENIAN ACTIONS AGAINST SHIITES AT NABAA. NUMEROUS SHIITES FROM NABAA NOW STREAMING ACROSS CONFRONTATION LINE AT MUSEUM POINT (L'ORIENT SAYS 200,000, OR 20 PER CENT OF POPULATION OF BEIRUT).
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FURTHER COMPLICATING FACTOR IS THAT FATAH PERSONNEL IN WEST BEIRUT NOW ASSUMING LOW PROFILE, WEARING CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND APPARENTLY NOT EXERCISING EARLIER ESTABLISHED SECURITY ROLE. COOK AT U.S. EMBASSY RESIDING IN SERVANTS' QUARTERS IN AMBASSADOR'S APARTMENT IN DURAFFOURD BUILDING DISAPPEARED NIGHT OF JULY 30-31; STILL MISSING AS OF 1300 LOCAL JULY 31. DOOR OF APARTMENT FOUND LEFT OPEN. (SEPTTEL TO DEPT SY.)

11. ON GROUND, IN NORTH, FIRING REPORTED ALONG CHRISTIAN-PALESTINIAN CONFRONTATION LINE OUTSIDE

TRIPOLI, AND SYRIANS HAVE CUT OFF PALESTINIAN CAMPS OF BEDDAOUI AND NAHR EL-BARED. IN SOUTH, SYRIAN ELEMENTS REPORTEDLY HAVE ENCIRCLED VILLAGE OF KALIA, SIX KILOMETERS FROM MARJAYOUN AND FOURTEEN KILOMETERS FROM ISRAELI BORDER. SYRIAN ARTILLERY IN SOUTH REPORTEDLY HAS SHELLED LAA POSITIONS AT AIN ATA, AIN HARCHA AND HASBANI, AND SYRIAN ARMOR FIRED AT LAA POSITIONS AT AIN F HOUR ALONG MARJAYOUN-MASNAA ROAD. IN HIGH METN, ARTILLERY DUELS REPORTED IN AREA OF MTEIN, AINTOURA, ZAAROUR, SANNINE, BASKINTA, BCHELLAMA AND BOIS DE BOULOGNE.

12. IN BEIRUT AREA, HEAVY FIGHTING AROUND NABAA. MUTUAL BOMBARDMENTS AND SNIPING AT TELL ZAATAR. ATTACKS BY FIRE CHARACTERIZE CONFRONTATION LINE HOSTILITIES.

13. NOTICE TO SITREP READERS: EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, THERE WILL BE NO SITREP ON SUNDAYS. IMPORTANT ITEMS WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL ON SUNDAYS; OTHER WEEKEND ITEMS WILL BE INCLUDED IN MONDAY SITREPS. HUNT

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